

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DOEE-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01
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ENERGY FOR SIEVERING

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TAGS: ENRG, IS
SUBJ: U.S.-ISRAEL ENERGY COOPERATION AND THE PROLIFERATION
OF BILATERAL FOUNDATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 071480, (B) TEL AVIV 587

1. SUMMARY: WHEN THE U.S.-ISRAEL AGRICULTURAL R&D
FUND BECOMES OPERATIONAL, THREE U.S.-ISRAEL BILATERAL
GRANT-MAKING ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE IN EXISTENCE. THERE
HAS ALREADY BEEN A GOI PROPOSAL FOR A BILATERAL FOUNDATION
FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES AND ANOTHER IN THE FIELD OF
ENERGY (REF A.) THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT ANY NEW
RESEARCH PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THE TWO NEW SUGGESTIONS,
BE LOCATED IN THE EXISTING FOUNDATIONS IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.
END SUMMARY.

2. ON FEBRUARY 22 DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER YADIN IN HIS
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REMARKS TO THE GOVERNORS OF THE BSF SUGGESTED A FOUNDATION
FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH, MINISTER OF ENERGY
MODA'I HAS NOW SUGGESTED ANOTHER FOUNDATION FOR ENERGY
RESEARCH. EVEN ASSUMING THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES SERVE
U.S. INTERESTS, IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT A PROLIFERATION
OF NEW BILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS IS THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE
THE GOALS. EACH NEW ORGANIZATION CREATED ESTABLISHES YET ANOTHER

OFFICE AND STAFF, ADDS TO THE WORKLOAD OF U.S. AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON AND THIS EMBASSY AND BRINGS WITH IT ITS OWN PARTICULAR PROBLEMS WHICH DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM MORE IMPORTANT BILATERAL ISSUES.

3. IN OUR VIEW, THE THREE ORGANIZATIONS ALREADY FORMED, COVERING MOST FIELDS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, SHOULD BE MADE TO SERVE ANY FUTURE BILATERAL FUNDING ACTIVITY WHICH MAY BE CONSIDERED BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS UNLESS IT CAN BE CLEARLY ESTABLISHED THAT THE EXISTING FOUNDATIONS, WITH MINOR AMENDMENTS, WILL NOT DO THE JOB.

4. MR. YADIN'S SUGGESTION FOR BILATERAL FUNDING OF R&D IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS RESPONDED TO, AT LEAST PARTIALLY, FEB. 22 WHEN THE BSF GOVERNORS AGREED WITH A SUGGESTION OF ASST.SEC. MINK THAT BSF HENCEFORTH WILL DEVOTE 10 PERCENT OF ITS AVAILABLE FUNDS TO THE SOCIAL SCIENCES.

5. THE GOI PROPOSAL IN REF (A) ALSO STRIKES US AS THE KIND OF RESEARCH WHICH CAN AND SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE EXISTING BINATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (BSF) AND THE BINATIONAL INDUSTRIAL R&D FOUNDATION (BIRDF). THE BSF HAS ALREADY FUNDED SIX COOPERATIVE PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY COSTING OVER US\$100,000. THE NEW BIRDF WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY MAKE SEVERAL GRANTS IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY INDUSTRIAL R&D IN ITS FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION.

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6. IN THE FIELD OF SOLAR ENERGY, (REF B) THE JAN. 8-12, 1978 JOINT WORKSHOP ON SOLAR ENERGY PREPARED A JAN. 12 JOINT STATEMENT WHICH SPECIFIED EIGHT MODES OF POSSIBLE FUTURE COOPERATION AND IDENTIFIED FOUR SPECIFIC SUBJECTS FOR POSSIBLE COOPERATIVE PROJECTS.

7. IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING BILATERAL COOPERATION, THERE HAS BEEN AT LEAST ONE AD HOC COOPERATIVE EXPERIMENT IN OIL SHARE.

8. WE BELIEVE THAT FURTHER U.S.-ISRAEL COOPERATIVE PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY R&D SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE CHANNELLED THROUGH THE EXISTING BSF AND BIRDF, WHICH WERE ESTABLISHED FOR THAT PURPOSE. SHOULD IT BE DESIRED TO DROADEN THE SCOPE OF ENERGY COOPERATION VERY SUBSTANTIALY, WE BELIEVE THAT THE BIRDF AND BSF CAN STILL HANDLE THE JOB BY SIMPLY INCREASING THEIR BUDGETS AND MAKING APPROPRIATE CHANGES IN THEIR GRANT GUIDELINES.

9. WE SUSPECT THAT MODAI'S PROPOSAL FOR SEPARATE BILATERAL COOPERATION IN ENERGY MAY STEM FROM HIS UNHAPPINESS THAT MIN-ENERGY IS NOT REPRESENTED ON THE BIRDF BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BOG).

MINENERGY DIRGEN VARDI IS KNOWN TO BE UPSET BY THE PROSPECT
OF MININDUSTRY CHIEF SCIENTIST LAVIE AND DIRGEN MARHAIM, BOTH
BOG MEMBERS, PARTICIPATING IN APPROVAL OF BIRDF GRANTS IN THE
FIELD OF ENERGY. WHILE WE DO NOT RELISH THE PROSPECT OF AN
ENLARGED BIRDF BOG TO INCLUDE DIRGEN MINENERGY, WE WOULD GREATLY
PREFER THAT TO A NEW, SEPARATE ENERGY FOUNDATION.
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